

Message Text

SECRET

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61

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY:TH
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.
P:PHABIB
S/S:MR. BRIDGES

----- 067656

Z 192220Z JUL 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA FLASH
AMEMBASSY CAIRO FLASH
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 178394

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS, FOR AMBASSADORS FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, AEMR, SA, EG

SUBJECT: BEIRUT EVACUATION

1. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME SHOULD BE CONVEYED URGENTLY TO FAHMY AND PRINCE FAHD.
2. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE PLO THROUGH OUR SECURITY CONTACT IN BEIRUT THAT OUR EVACUATION CONVOY TO DAMASCUS MUST BE POSTPONED FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE CONVOY ROUTE HAS BECOME UNSAFE NEAR NABATIYA. THIS MESSAGE WAS SAID TO BE ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF ARAFAT. (WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT WOULD CONFIRM ANY SECURITY PROBLEM IN THE NABATIYA AREA.)

3. I REGARD THIS DELAY AS A SERIOUS MATTER. THERE ARE MORE THAN 400 PEOPLE OF 30 NATIONALITIES INVOLVED IN THIS CONVOY. I NEED NOT POINT OUT HOW SERIOUS THE CONSEQUENCES

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IN THIS COUNTRY WOULD BE IF WE WERE NOT ABLE TO MOVE THOSE

PEOPLE PROMPTLY OUT OF BEIRUT.

4. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR GETTING IN TOUCH URGENTLY WITH THE PLO AND PRESSING THEM IN THE FIRMEST POSSIBLE WAY TO PROCEED WITH THIS CONVOY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT, CERTAINLY NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, JULY 22.

5. FOR AMBASSADOR SEELYE: YOU SHOULD CONVEY THE ABOVE POINTS TO THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT, SAYING THAT YOU ARE DOING SO UNDER INSTRUCTIONS. KISSINGER

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NNN

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To: JIDDA CAIRO BEIRUT
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